

**Performance Objectives  
And Instructional Cues**

## **OUTLINE AND PRESENTATION**

### **Vehicle Stop Techniques Block 5.2 BPOT Lesson Plan**

**LESSON PLAN**

**INTRODUCTION**

Course title: Vehicle Stop Techniques

Instructional Goals:

1. This course will enable the student to safely and tactically conduct an unknown risk and high-risk traffic stop.
2. This course will place emphasis on the right-side approach technique and demonstrate the tactical advantages that it has over a left-side approach
3. This course will provide the student with the techniques and procedures that are necessary for conducting a felony stop.

Instructional Objectives:

1. Identify proper procedures to stop vehicles to investigate, cite, or arrest occupants.
2. Given a nighttime practical exercise involving stopping a vehicle for a traffic violation, demonstrate in a role play the following proper uses of the spotlight in a pullover and approach situation:
  - a. Not blinding the driver of the other vehicle while the vehicle is in motion.
  - b. Illuminating the interior of the other vehicle after it has stopped.
  - c. Focusing on side mirrors and rearview mirrors in order to blind the occupant (s) to the officer's approach.
3. Given a night time practical exercise involving stopping a vehicle for a traffic violation, demonstrate proper use of his/her flashlight to observe the vehicle occupants (s), get identification and issue a citation.
4. Given a practical exercise involving the stopping of a vehicle Containing felony suspect, and as measured on an approved, pre-designed rating form, demonstrate safely stopping the vehicle, removing and placing the occupant (s) in a position of

## OUTLINE AND PRESENTATION

disadvantage without the officer (s) being placed in a position that would be inherently dangerous.

5. Demonstrate conducting a safe and effective search of a vehicle  
As demonstrated on an approved, pre-designed ratings form.

Instructional Method: Classroom Lecture and Discussion, Practical exercises

Estimated Time: 2 hours

Bibliography: NM DPS Block Lesson Plan, 1999  
University of New Mexico, Criminal Justice Program, Patrol Operations

Instructor \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by: LEA Date: January 2, 2014

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Performance Objectives And Instructional Cues	<b>OUTLINE AND PRESENTATION</b>
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LO 1

## **I. Unknown risk vehicle stops**

### **A. Conducting the stop**

#### **1. Determine reason for stop**

a. Traffic violation, suspicious person(s)/vehicle, Vehicle equipment malfunction

#### **2. Why would an officer not make a traffic stop.**

- a. Numerous subjects in the car
- b. No back up available
- c. Severity of the infraction not sufficient
- d. Inclement weather
- e. Heavy traffic
- f. No safe location

#### **3. Advise Dispatch (Prior to initiating stop)**

- a. Current Location/Anticipated Stop Location
- b. Vehicle Description
- c. License Plate Information
- d. Request Registration & Warrants Check. Wait for return before initiating stop
- e. Number of Occupants

#### **4. Officer chooses location of stop: The officer will attempt to travel to a suitable location before engaging lights and siren thus minimizing the chance that the violator stops in an unsafe area.**

##### **a. Minimize exposure to traffic hazards**

- 1. Curves
- 2. Hills
- 3. Heavy traffic
- 4. High crime area
- 5. Lighting
- 6. Available cover
- 7. Ability to back out of area

LO 2

#### **4. Select Location of the stop:**

- a. Free of traffic hazards
- b. Well lit area at night
- c. Cover available
- d. Ability to back out of area (if needed)

## OUTLINE AND PRESENTATION

Initiate the stop

6. Activate emergency equipment. The spotlight should not be used to blind the driver when their vehicle is in motion. The spotlight can be used to illuminate the vehicle's interior once it has stopped. It can also be turned on the vehicle's mirrors to mask the officer's approach on foot.

- a. Over head, dashboard or bumper mounted lights
- b. Headlights
- c. Rear warning lights
- d. Headlights or wig-wag lights
- e. Siren if necessary  
(DO NOT PULL ALONG SIDE AND MOTIION DRIVER TO PULL OVER)

7. Be prepared for sudden stops

- a. Maintain safe distance (Space Cushion)
- b. Do not drive alongside or in front of suspect vehicle
- c. Watch out for motorcycles pulling onto shoulder and losing control.

d. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

- i. This places the officer at the minimum safe distance to defend against an edged weapon attack.

- ii. This distance creates a buffer area in the case that the police vehicle is struck from the rear; the chance that the violator vehicle will also be struck is minimized.

- iii. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] This allows a small buffer area that minimizes the driver from stepping directly into traffic should they choose to exit their vehicle

- e. Turn Wheels of patrol car to the left
- f. Use headlights even during daylight

8. Notify dispatch

- a. Location

## OUTLINE AND PRESENTATION

1. Location and as much vehicle information as possible should be called in while still in motion to minimize time spent behind the wheel of the patrol vehicle
- b. License information
- c. State, Letters and numbers
- d. Vehicle description
- e. Number of occupants
9. Exiting the vehicle
  - a. [REDACTED]
    1. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
  - b. Exit vehicle, quietly shut door (do not give the driver any unnecessary clues to your movement)
  - c. Keep eyes on suspect vehicle
  - d. Be aware of passing traffic
  - e. Step around rear of patrol vehicle
    1. This places the patrol vehicle between the officer and the suspect providing distance, cover and concealment.
  - f. Pause and look from rear of patrol vehicle. Assess the situation, determine if backup is needed and prepare to approach.
10. Vehicle Approaches
  - A. [REDACTED]
  - B. The officer should not carry anything in his or her weapon hand. No unnecessary equipment should be carried on approach.
  - C. [REDACTED]
  - D. Taking care to not illuminate himself and only turning on the light when absolutely necessary.

Performance Objectives And Instructional Cues	OUTLINE AND PRESENTATION
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E. This keeps the driver out of passing traffic and allows attention to be paid to the driver

F. [REDACTED]

G. [REDACTED]

H. [REDACTED]

I. [REDACTED]

a.) [REDACTED]

b.) [REDACTED]

c.) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

d.) [REDACTED]

e.) [REDACTED]

# 11. Contacting the driver

a. Contact through passenger window or door

1. [REDACTED]

b. [REDACTED]

c. [REDACTED]

d. [REDACTED]

e. [REDACTED]

f. [REDACTED]

# 12. Call-out the offenders (Tactics)

Performance Objectives And Instructional Cues	OUTLINE AND PRESENTATION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. [REDACTED]</li> <li>b. [REDACTED]</li> <li>c. [REDACTED]</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13. [REDACTED] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. [REDACTED]</li> <li>b. [REDACTED]</li> </ul> </li> <li>14. Utilize the P/A to Communicate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Verbally direct driver/occupant to turn-off the vehicle (not including tractor trailer rigs or other large diesel vehicles)</li> <li>b. Request only the driver retrieve the paperwork from the vehicle</li> <li>c. Have the driver exit the vehicle and meet you at the curb away from the traffic flow</li> <li>d. Visually inspect the driver as he/she walks approaches you for any possible weapons</li> <li>e. Insure the subjects hands/palms are visible</li> <li>f. Maintain your position of cover and concealment at your unit until the subject is at the curb</li> <li>g. Avoid tunnel vision on the driver or any other object</li> </ul> </li> <li>15. Contact the driver at the curb <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. [REDACTED]</li> <li>b. Have the driver set the information or paperwork on the trunk and step away</li> <li>c. [REDACTED]</li> <li>d. Maintain a 360 degree security by being aware of your surrounding area</li> </ul> </li> <li>16. Issue the citation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Advise the driver of your intentions and/or decision(s) on the course of action</li> <li>b. Offer the Penalty Assessment if applicable</li> <li>c. Request the driver and passengers to remain inside the vehicle until you return</li> <li>d. On a call-out, have the driver remain at the curb</li> <li>e. Walk back to the patrol car - gain distance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



## OUTLINE AND PRESENTATION

- f. Request a driver registration and wants/warrant check
- g. [REDACTED]
- h. [REDACTED]
- i. Write the citation
- j. Approach the subject car again
- k. [REDACTED]
- l. [REDACTED]
- m. [REDACTED]
- n. [REDACTED]
- o. [REDACTED]
- p. On a Call-out, set the paperwork on the trunk and step away
- q. Advise the driver that you will assist in getting them back into traffic
- r. Avoid telling the driver to "Have a good day." Advise them to drive safely

### 17. Terminate the stop

- a. Return to your patrol car
- b. Maintain visibility with both the passing traffic and the subject car
- c. Pull into traffic lane while simultaneously observing the traffic flow
- d. When safe, pull into traffic and allow subject car to leave
- e. Turn-off emergency equipment on the patrol unit
- f. Make a turn away from subject(s) vehicle - head in a different direction
- g. Advise dispatch that you are back in-service

## I. KNOWN HIGH RISK STOPS

- A. Make a plan before initiating the stop
- B. Communicate with all other officers involved in the stop prior to initiating the stop
- C. Move methodically
- D. Slow things down
- E. Do not move fast due to excitement

### 18. Principles of known risk stops

- a. Do not commit yourself without adequate manpower

LO 4  
LO4

## OUTLINE AND PRESENTATION

- b. Utilize marked vehicles to make the stop
- c. Don't try to be a "hero"
- d. Wait for backup
- e. Make the suspects come to you
- f. Give suspect vehicle description
  - 1. make, model
  - 2. approximate year, color
  - 3. license number and state
  - 4. number of occupants and descriptions
  - 5. dents, primer, stickers etc.

### 19. Making the Known Risk Stop

- a. Select a location with:
  - 1.cover available
  - 2.good lighting
  - 3.no traffic hazard
  - 4.no innocent bystanders
  - 5.free of suspect escape routes
- b. Unit windows down and doors unlocked
- c. Activate emergency equipment
- d. Lights
- e. Sirens should be turned off as soon as possible to lower attention of bystanders and make communication easier

### 20. Positioning Patrol Cars

- a. [REDACTED]
- b. [REDACTED]
- c. [REDACTED]
- d. [REDACTED]
- e. [REDACTED]
- f. [REDACTED]
- g. [REDACTED]
- h. Watch for movement inside the vehicle

### 21. Maintaining a position of cover

- a. Stay partially inside the patrol car
- b. Unit doors offer limited cover
- c. Point weapons at your target
- d. Maintain weapons safety

## OUTLINE AND PRESENTATION

- e. Trigger finger stays off the trigger unless the decision is made to fire
- f. Identify yourself as a police officer
- g. Advise the suspects they are under arrest
- h. Confirm the suspects can hear you
- i. GIVE INSTRUCTIONS OVER P.A.
- j. Cover officer obtains another pair of handcuffs if he/she does not have them on their person
- k. The cover officer instructs the contact officer to bring out the next person
- l. Repeat the procedure for all visible suspects
- m. [REDACTED]
- n. [REDACTED]
- o. [REDACTED]
- p. [REDACTED]

22. When you are satisfied no others are inside the vehicle.

- a. [REDACTED]
- b. [REDACTED]
- c. Maintain wear on discipline
- d. [REDACTED]
- e. Have flashlight at the ready for night stops
- f. [REDACTED]
- g. [REDACTED]
- h. [REDACTED]
- i. [REDACTED]
- j. [REDACTED]

23. Advantages

- a. May result in apprehension of suspects
- b. Assist in solving a crime by identifying suspects and recovering evidence

<b>Performance Objectives And Instructional Cues</b>	<b>OUTLINE AND PRESENTATION</b>
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c. Confine suspects to a geographic area

24. Disadvantages

- a. Inconvenience to officers
- b. Expensive in terms of manpower and equipment
- c. Hazardous to officers and citizens